IMT Nuremberg Archives

H – 3471

International Court of Justice

H3471 - 0002

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date: 1 August 1948

I certify that Document Number 3800-PS was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number USA - 880 in the Trial by the International Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

Fred Niebergall

FRED NIEBERGALL
Chief, Document Control Branch

DCB-36 (10247)

H3471 - 0003

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the annexed document 3800-PS No. USA-880 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the United States Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the National Archives, Washington D.C. .

Nuremberg, 4 July 1948

Paul Joosten

PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

H3471 - 0004

Interrogation of Dr. Heribert von Strempel by Capt. Sam Harris at Oberursel, Germany, 14, 15 and 16 February 1946.
Reporter: Miss Joan Wakefield
Present: Dr. Jan Charmatz.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
NURNBERG, GERMANY
459 Exhibit 880
Filed 28 May 1946

14th February 1946

Capt. Harris: Dr. Strempel, I wish you to understand that you are under no compulsion to testify. The statements you make are made of your own free will. I make no promise of reward to you nor do I threaten you in any way. I shall ask you a number of questions which I believe fall within your peculiar knowledge. The only requirement that I impose is that such questions as you chose to answer, you answer truthfully and to the point. Do you understand all of this?

A. I do.

Q. Please outline briefly your activity from the date you entered the foreign service in Germany until you came to the United States in 1938.

A. I entered the diplomatic service in 1923 as a technical assistant in the Foreign Office. I passed my diplomatic examinations in 1926 and became Attache in Paris. From 1928-34 I was in Chile. I was Second Secretary there from 1928-32, and in 1932 I was elevated to Charge d'Affaires.

In 1934 I was recalled to Berlin because I was not a Party member. I should like to point out that I have never been a member of the Nazi Party, and for that reason I was not looked upon with favor by the Nazis. In 1934 there was an opening in the Embassy in Washington for Second Secretary, but the Nazi Party did not approve this assignment, -- apparently because they didn't trust me. Instead, I was assigned to the Press and Political Departments of the Foreign Office in Berlin. In the Press Department, I was in charge of Spanish, Portuguese, English, American and Western European press; and in the Political Department, I was in charge of South American political affairs.

H3471 - 0005

Q. What were your precise functions in those positions?

A. In the Press Department I had to read the press of the above-mentioned foreign countries and to report to Minister Aschman about it. Furthermore, especially when I was in charge of the English and American press, I had to cultivate close relations with the correspondents stationed in Berlin. In the Political Department, I had to keep up with affairs South America and to report to my superior, Geheimrat Freytag about them.

Q. What did your superiors do with the information you passed on to them?

A. ~~I don't know.~~ I merely reported to my chiefs in order to enlighten the understanding of the development of public opinion and political affairs.

Q. During the period you were in the Press Department, do you recall any references in the American press to the activities of Fritz Kuhn and the German American Bund?

A. Yes, but I took note of it only when it looked particularly interesting, and then reported it to my chief.

Q. When did it strike you as particularly interesting?

A. When it appeared that his activities were straining good relations between Germany and America.

Q. When was that?

A. The official policy of the Foreign Office was to avoid any political frictions with the U.S.A. ~~and to avoid any propaganda.~~ On that point we always had great trouble with the Auslands Organization. We represented the point of view that the Auslands Organization should not have any organizations in the United States because they could be used and blamed for propaganda activities.

Q. Was the German-American Bund supported by the Auslands Organization?

A. I ~~believe~~ am positive that it had relations with the foreign section of the Party, ~~I heard this.~~

A 097465

Insert from bottom of page 2.

For example I am sure they advised the Bund how to map up their political organization, how, where & when to hold mass meetings and how to handle their propaganda and like matters.

I do not know of my own knowledge if they received financial support.

A 097466

H3471 – 0006

H3471 - 0007

4

Q. From whom did you hear this?

A. ~~I don't remember~~. There was understand ~~some~~ talk in the Foreign Office about it, ~~but I can't remember.~~

Q. Was it regarded as a matter of common knowledge in the Foreign Office that the German American Bund was supported by the foreign section of the Party?

A. ~~I don't know this~~. Yes ~~All~~ I know ~~is~~ that I heard ~~about~~ often it.

Q. In the Foreign Office or from persons in the foreign section of the Party?

A. No. Not from the foreign section of the Party. I was not on good terms with anyone in that office. They disliked me.

Q. Well, then it must have been in the Foreign Office that you heard about this matter?

A. Yes -- ~~probably so~~. certainly so ~~But this is surmise. I am not absolutely sure. I can't remember.~~

Q. Do you recall any instances during the period you were in the Foreign Office in Berlin in which the activities of Kuhn were commented upon by German diplomatic representatives in the United States?

A. Yes. Ambassador Dieckoff was in Germany during the meeting of the Reichparteitag in 1938, and said that all relations that may have existed between diplomatic and consular services in the United States with Kuhn should be severed.

Q. Your last answer indicates that there were, in fact, relations between Kuhn and the German diplomatic officials. What was the precise nature of those relations?

A. No. I'm sorry, Captain Harris, I didn't make myself clear. The relationship of Kuhn was ~~mainly~~ only with the foreign section of the Party or their representatives, ~~that~~ who F

Q. Then you know that to be a fact?

A. ~~I so understood it.~~ Yes:

were also members of the German consular service in the USA

A097467

H3471 - 0008

5

Q. If there were no relations between Kuhn and any German diplomatic ~~or consular~~ officials, why should Dieckoff have recommended a halt to such relations? It's silly to stop something that isn't going on, isn't it?

A. Let me explain it this way. German foreign policy was emerging on two parallel roads -- the Foreign Office and the foreign section of the Party. As long as they remained parallel, the Foreign Office did not take special action. But where their policies started to cross, the Foreign Office considered it necessary to do something. Our policy was not to interfere with affairs in America which might have caused a breach in diplomatic relations. The activities of Mr. Kuhn and the foreign section of the Party were considered a burden on German-American relations, so Mr. Dieckoff recommended that they be stopped.

Q. What action was taken?

A. I remember an order was issued at the end of 1938 that it was prohibited for the members of the Embassy and the consulates to continue possible former relations or connections with the Bund. This was after Minister Thomsen had delivered a solemn pledge to the State Department to that effect.

Q. Again, doesn't your last reply indicate that members of the Embassy and consulates had actually been in contact with the Bund?

A. I was merely reciting the nature of the order. I don't know about any relations between the diplomatic officials and the Bund. I do know for a fact that the Embassy did not have any relations with the Bund after my arrival in Washington. Mr. Thomsen and I were much opposed to any dealing with the Bund.

Q. Did the foreign section of the Party continue to support the Bund after the order you mentioned before was issued?

H3471 - 0009

6

A. I ~~believe~~ am sure that Mr. Draeger, Consul in New York City, and representative of the foreign section of the party, did continue to have relations with Bund officials.

Q. What's the basis of that belief?

A. Out of their general attitude and their ways and methods to cultivate contacts abroad. I ~~think~~ am convinced that they had contacts with the German-American Bund and probably with the noisy representatives of the isolationist groups.

Q. These relationships seem to have violated the order you mentioned before. Did you report these violations to the Foreign Office?

A. Yes, ~~very often.~~ several times In reports I drafted for Thomsen when I was in the Embassy, we drew the attention of Berlin that this relationship to the Bund was very detrimental.

Q. In order to make the record clear, -- you are now speaking of the time you were 1st Secretary in the German Embassy in Washington, after Thomsen had issued the order you previously recited?

A. Yes.

Q. Please give us the substance of these reports to Berlin, as well as you can recall them.

A. Well, we stated that the continued support of the Bund by the Foreign Section of the Party was harming ~~good~~ diplomatic relations ~~in~~ with the United States.

Q. I don't want there to be any ambiguity in the record on this point. When you reported that this support of the Bund was harmful to good relations, you must have known that such support was, in fact, being given. Now, my question is: What was the source of your information?

A. I don't recall that I was told about it by anyone specifically. That was my impression. I had the impression that Draeger continued to support the Bund against orders. ~~I am a diplomat -- just as you are an interrogator -- and it was my job to learn such things.~~ I made a number of trips to New York, and that was the impression I formed after talks with Draeger, German newspapers men, especially Scheffer and other acquaintances.

97469

H3471 - 0010

7

Q. Did Mr. Thomsen share your impression?

A. He must have. He signed the reports I prepared and took responsibility for them.

Q. You mentioned before that you also believed that the Foreign Section of the Nazi Party was in contact with various vociferous isolationists. Do you recall the names of any such persons?

A. No.

Q. What action was taken in Berlin to halt the activities of which you complained?

A. I know of no action.

Q. And despite your continued reports to Berlin that the activities of the Foreign Section of the Nazi Party in the United States were harmful to good relations, no action was taken?

A. No action was taken, to my knowledge.

Q. I should like, if I may, to revert briefly to your activities in the Foreign Office in Berlin during 1934-38. Apart from the Bund, did you notice any organizations or persons in the United States that threatened good relations between Germany and the United States?

A. No. I can't recall any.

Q. When did you go to the German Embassy in the United States?

A. On Christmas Eve, 1938.

Q. You went as 1st Secretary, didn't you?

A. Yes.

Q. This represented a promotion didn't it?

A. Yes, but it had been delayed since 1932. They couldn't hold it off any longer.

Q. That's a matter of opinion. I was of the impression that the Nazis never did anything they didn't want to do.

What instructions did you receive from the Foreign Office prior to the assumption of your new duties?

A 09470

H3471 - 0011

A. Nothing in particular. I saw Dieckoff, who said that it was possible to go to the United States even though it was a period of extreme tension.

Q. But didn't you receive any instructions from your superiors in the Foreign Office concerning your actions in the United States?

A. I was merely instructed to report to Mr. Thomsen at the Embassy in Washington.

Q. What functions did Thomsen assign to you?

A. He put me in charge of cultural relations.

Q. What did that involve?

A. German universities would invite American ~~personnel~~ professors to come over for visits, and it was my task to pass on the invitations. Political tension was already strong and ~~it was necessary to be rather careful~~ little room left for cultivating cultural relations.

Q. That doesn't sound like a full time job. Did you ever hear of the German-American Fellowship Forum?

A. Yes.

Q. What was your relation to that organization?

A. None.

Q. Did you supply any funds to that organization?

A. No.

Q. Did the Embassy supply any?

A. While I was in charge - no.

Q. Before that?

A. Yes, I think it was financed by a representative of the Propaganda Ministry, Gienanth.

Q. Was v. Gienanth attached to the Embassy?

A. Yes. He was the representative of the Propaganda Ministry at the Embassy.

Q. He was also a member of the SS, wasn't he?

H3471 - 0012

A. ~~I believe so.~~ Yes. I believe he was also a member of the Security Police, but I'm not absolutely sure.

Q. Did v. Gienanth have special funds available to him for propaganda purposes?

A. I believe so.

Q. As you know, Fritz Auhagen was head of the American Fellowship Forum. Did you give him funds at any time?

A. No. Auhagen came from the Propaganda Ministry and his behavior in the United States was stupid. He was not to be trusted with a political mission. He was a very unreliable man.

Q. Did Gienanth give any money to Auhagen?

A. I believe so.

Q. Don't you know for certain? You were Gienanth's superior, weren't you?

A. Actually no. Gienanth was working for the Propaganda Ministry and ~~was a member of the Party.~~ I suspected him to be the S.D. I didn't want to have anything to do with him. He acted quite independent of me. that might have antagonized him.

Q. Do you or do you not know that Gienanth gave money to Auhagen?

A. I am quite certain that he did. Auhagen was sent out by the Propaganda Ministry in Berlin to deliver propaganda speeches, or lectures, ~~and Gienanth had to supply money to Auhagen.~~

Q. Have you ever heard of a person named Laura Ingalls?

A. Yes.

Q. In what connection?

A. Gienanth pestered me to see her. He had a special liking for her. Thought she would be a good propagandist.

Q. Did you give her any funds for propaganda or any other purpose?

A. No.

Q. Did Gienanth?

A. I don't know.

H3471 - 0013

Q. Well, there's little point in discussing this matter. She admitted over 2 years ago that she received some money from von Gienanth for delivering lectures throughout the United States.

A. I didn't know that.

Q. Did you have any funds at your disposal for propaganda purposes?

A. In July or August 1939, Blankenhorn left the Embassy -- he was in charge of the political and press departments -- and I was his successor.

Q. Did the Embassy have a political or press fund?

A. Yes, a press fund. ~~I took it over from Blankenhorn.~~

Q. How much was in the fund when you took it over?

A. I don't remember the exact amount.

Q. Approximately how much?

A. I don't recall. But I think in October 1939, we received for the "Kriegskostensonderfonds" (War Funds)$50,000 a year.

Q. What were these funds used for?

A. Mainly to finance the propaganda of the German Library of Information and Flanders Hall.

(Off the record discussion)

Q. I want you to describe briefly the origin, nature, functions, sponsors, and chief employees of the German Library of Information.

A. Yes: The German Library of Information was in 1937 founded by von Gienanth as representative of the Propaganda Ministry on order from Berlin. I was not in the United States at that time. After his trip to Germany in 1938/1939, Mr. Viereck was engaged as public relations counsellor of the Library.

Q. Is this George Sylvester Viereck?

A. Yes, the well known author.

Q. What was Viereck's salary as public relations counsellor?

A. At the beginning $500. Later more.

H3471 - 0014

Q. Did the German Library of Information remain under the control of the Propaganda Ministry?

A. No. It was somewhat confused. From 1939 on, the Library was controlled and financed by both the Ministry of Propaganda and the Department of Information in the Foreign Office. You see, in 1939, Hitler issued an order that from that time on, foreign propaganda would be handled by the Foreign Office.

Q. That would seem to indicate that the Foreign Office superceded the Propaganda Ministry in the Library of Information?

A. Well, not completely. The Library was under the control of Dr. Hans Borchers, Consul General of New York, and under the immediate direction of Professor Mathias Schmitz. Both of these people were part of the Foreign Office. Actually, Schmitz was paid a salary by both the Foreign Office and the Propaganda Ministry, but accepted only the salary from the Foreign Office.

Q. Where did the Propaganda Ministry come in?

A. Gienanth had chosen Schmitz in 1940, and had also appointed many of the lesser employees. Naturally, as a representative of the Propaganda Ministry, he selected only such people as were agreeable to it.

Q. Did the Propaganda Ministry issue instructions to the German Library of Information?

A. I believe so.

Q. Have you ever seen any such instructions?

A. Yes, they related to expanding their activities & giving more books.

Q. What was your relation to the German Library of Information?

A. Maybe I can best explain it by an example. The Foreign Office would request us to edit the American edition of some books, and then we asked the Library of Information how much it would cost to do that. The Library of Information would tell us, and then we would cable back to Berlin for approval of the amount. After approval, I would pay over the money to the Library of Information to bring out the book.

H3471 - 0015

12

Q. The Library of Information also published a magazine, entitled "Facts in Review" didn't it?

A. Yes.

Q. What kind of a magazine was it?

A. Its propagandistic aim was to criticize British policy and to counteract British propaganda.

Q. How often did it come out?

A. Since 1940, regularly every week.

Q. That is, until the outbreak of the war against the United States?

A. Yes.

Q. How large was its circulation?

A. About 200,000. Americans ~~read it~~ every week, I believe. 40,000 copies issued every week, which were read by approx.

Q. Did you exercise any supervision over the "Facts in Review"?

A. I had a kind of political supervision over it.

Q. How much money did you advance to the German Library of Information?

A. As far as I can estimate, the Library received about $600,000 from the Embassy from 1939-1941.

Q. That's considerably more than you had in your "Kriegskosten-sonderfonds", isn't it?

A. Yes. It worked this way, Captain Harris. When we received an order from Berlin to pay the Library of Information from the Kriegskostensonderfonds a certain amount more than was available in that fund, the amount was ~~taken out of the safe and handed over.~~ especially authorized.

Q. How did you get these extra funds?

A. The Embassy had at its disposal very large sums of dollars which came to it from dollar legacies for German heirs.

Q. Do you mean that when a person residing in Germany inherited money from a relative or someone else in the United States, the Embassy would collect the dollar amounts and put it in the Kriegskostensonderfonds?

A. Yes, that's it. The heirs in Germany would receive the equivalent in German marks from the Reichsbank.

A-097475

13

Q. Then, if I understand it, the Kriegskostensonderfonds consisted of sums greatly in excess of the $50,000 a year mentioned earlier?

A. Yes. I'm sorry I didn't make that clearer before. The $50,000 a year was merely the press fund, which also came out of the larger "Kriegskostensonderfonds".

Q. It's my fault; I didn't completely understand your previous answer. What was the total amount in the "Kriegskostensonderfonds"?

A. I don't know, but it was very large.

Q. Did the Consulates have separate "Kriegskostensonderfonds" of their own, apart from the one in the Embassy.

A. Yes, but I never knew the amounts in them. The consular officials didn't discuss that matter with me. They tried to minimize the funds at their disposal, because they came to the Embassy for funds from time to time.

Q. But you know for a fact that they did have "Kriegskostensonderfonds" of their own?

A. Yes.

Q. It is now after 1730 which is your dinner time. We shall resume late tomorrow afternoon, if that is agreeable to you.

A. Yes, sir.

A 097476

H3471 - 0016

H3471-0017

14

15 February 1946

Continuation of interrogation of Dr. von Strempel by Captain Sam Harris.
Reporter: Miss Joan Wakefield
Present: Dr. Robert Kempner.

Dr. Strempel: May I make a preliminary statement?

Capt. Harris: Yes, certainly.

Dr. Strempel: When I was in the United States, especially in 1940-41, I observed ~~from the~~ into political trends: First, the wish to crush Germany entirely with the help of American troops and to occupy Germany, because that was the only way too to abolish the Nazi regime. Second, the other political trend was the policy, short of war, called the Arsenal of Democracy, to deliver war materials to England and Russia.

This second tendency of American foreign policy was that the Nazis and the Soviets should, through a war of many years, exhaust each other. After a certain time naturally the German people would want to get rid of Hitler, e.g. 20 July 1944. The United States, under the second policy, would have stepped in as a decisive international factor, without entering the war in a military sense. This policy would have had the following advantage at the end of the war. You would see in the international field a very exhausted Russia ~~Germany~~, a ~~very~~ exhausted Germany, a feeble England and a very powerful United States. And it would have saved the United States many soldiers that were used in the European Theater. The policy of myself was to avoid the first ~~foster this second~~ type of policy, because I thought as a German it would save my country from total defeat. ~~Probably~~ certainly many more would be killed when the United States would joined the war, so I thought it was the smaller evil and it would weaken the ~~Soviet Union.~~ Bolshevistic ideology too. So I think it would have been of benefit to my own country and to the benefit of the United States too.

Q. If I understand you correctly, you favored what you called the "second policy", which involved keeping the United States

H3471 - 0018

out of war while it was delivering war materials to England and Russia. Did you favor that aspect of the policy which involved sending materials to English and Russia?

A. I was not much concerned with that point. I thought that the U-boats could take care of any materials that were sent to England and Russia.

Q. Am I right in assuming, therefore, that your aim was identical with that of the Nazi Government in Berlin -- in other words, to keep the United States out of the war -- but your reasons were different?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you actually Believe in 1940-41 that the war would develop into a stalemate? Hitler was having one overwhelming success after another on the battlefield at that time.

A. I thought there would be a long drawn out war, in which the German people would want to get rid of Hitler.

Q. Did you think that Hitler intended to wage war on the United States?

A. No, because in the reports we drafted and sent to Berlin, we said that you should not do this. We advised against submarines coming too close to American waters, and we had the impression that Berlin agreed with us.

Q. There are certain documents in our possession in Nurnberg -- in fact, they have already been introduced in evidence -- which show that Hitler did, in fact, intend to wage war upon the United States. Weren't you advised of that fact?

A. No -- definitely not. Anyway, I was very much against war with the United States. Let me point out that the policy of the Foreign Office was to avoid anything that might do harm to the political relations between Berlin and Washington. As it was, relations were deteriorating rapidly; the diplomatic thread was becoming thinner and thinner.

H3471 - 0019

.16

Q. I'd now like to return to the role which Viereck played in this studied program, which the Nazi government had worked out to keep the United States out of the war. You mentioned yesterday that Viereck was appointed public relations counsellor of the German Library of Information.

A. Yes.

Q. Did he also have any connection with the Flanders Hall enterprise which you mentioned yesterday?

A. Yes.

Q. Please explain to us the precise details of that connection.

A. I believe I have already mentioned that during his sojourn in Berlin in 1938/39, where Viereck was chosen for these anti-British propagandistic activities because he was considered an experienced American author who could efficiently and rather independently manage ~~smoothly~~ this anti-British propaganda without interfering in the internal affairs of the United States.

Q. Where did Flanders Hall fit into the picture?

A. Flanders Hall was run by two brothers named Hauck, under Viereck's direction. I don't know how the arrangements were worked out in details because I was to occupied with my main tasks to ~~didn't bother with such details~~.

Q. Exactly what did Flanders Hall do?

A. The manuscripts of certain books came from the Foreign Office in Berlin in the diplomatic pouch or otherwise, and then went to the German Library of Information. Viereck selected from those manuscripts those which he thought might criticize and unmask British propaganda and egoistic British foreign policy, and which could easily be sold in the United States.

Q. Then what happened?

A. Viereck would publish these books at Flanders Hall. If he thought a financial risk was involved, he would contact me, and say that ~~I should give him~~ the costs would amount to $5,000 or sometimes even to $10,000.

Draft political reports & to cultivate the relations with the american press

A - 097479

H3471 - 0020

17

Q. What did you do?

A. I ~~would~~ drafted a report for the Chief of mission, which was cable to Berlin and ~~receive~~ received approval, ~~and then give the money to~~ Viereck. He always ~~gave him~~ received lump sums of 5 or 10 thousand dollars. He would receive the money.

Q. Do you recall the names of the books that ~~you and~~ the Foreign Office approved, and whose publication by Flanders Hall ~~you~~ is directly financed?

A. I remember "Lothian versus Lothian", "English Policy in India", "English Policy in Ireland", "English Policy in Palestine", "Britain's 100 families" by the German author, G. Wirsing. The manuscripts of these books had come originally from Berlin, and were then published by Viereck after I had advanced funds to him.

Q. Did the publication of each of these books entail a loss?

A. I don't know. I don't believe so. Books about Ireland sold easily. Lothian versus Lothian was a big success. The book on India sold well. Some didn't sell so well.

Q. If no loss was sustained in the publication of any book, did Viereck return the money you had given him?

A. No. He kept it.

Q. Did he also keep all profits on books he distributed through Flanders Hall?

A. Yes.

Q. How much did you give to Viereck to carry out his propaganda activities?

A. Between 70 to 120,000 dollars during the period 1939 to 1941.

Q. There is a considerable spread between $70,000 and $120,000. Can't you be more exact?

A. No. I'm sorry. I always gave Viereck round sums of $5,000, $10,000 or $15,000. I never kept an exact accounting of these funds.

A 097480

H3471 - 0021

1.8

Q. Didn't the Foreign Office insist upon some sort of an accounting? My studies of the Reichsbank and Ministry of Economics files indicate that Germany was rather short of foreign exchange, and that they sought to control it as much as possible.

A. Even after my return to Berlin 1942 officials I was never asked any questions by ~~people~~ in Berlin about what had been done ~~I did~~ with funds ~~in my possession~~. Viereck had been chosen in Berlin as their propaganda representative, and I felt no need to account for any money given to him.

Q. Did the manuscripts of all books published by Flanders Hall originate in Germany?

A. No. It also distributed various books by American authors which criticized British propaganda and tried to keep the United States out of the war. I remember a book by Porter Sargent; a book by Peterson called "Propaganda for War"; the book "~~Every~~ England expects Every American to do his duty". I believe that Flanders Hall also published one or two books by Congressman Stephan Day about British propaganda.

Q. Do you know anything about the negotiations which led to the publication of these books?

A. No.

Q. Did Viereck help write any of these books?

A. I don't know. He may have helped Congressman Day. I seem to remember Viereck's saying he had written down some highlights for Congressman Day.

Q. What was Viereck's connection with Porter Sargent?

A. Viereck told me that he financed the book of Porter Sargent.

Q. How?

A. I supposed that he bought for Flanders Hall a certain number of copies, for that and there was no financial risk for Mr. Sargent.

Q. Did Viereck ever mention the name of Senator Lundeen to you?

H3471 - 0022

19

A. Yes. He told me that he was an old friend of his and that when the President of the German Red Cross came to the United States Viereck claimed to have arranged that there was a great dinner party in his honor. Senator Lundeen summarized the volume made an after-dinner speech.

Q. Did Viereck ever mention that he had written some of Senator Lundeen's speeches?

A. Yes. He told me on a number of occasions that he had written down high lights to be used by Senator Lundeen in his speeches.

Q. Did Viereck state to you that he had written speeches for any other Senators or Congressmen, or contribute ideas for their speeches?

A. I am not sure. I don't remember all the details. Viereck tried to give me the impression that he had good relations with a number of senators and congressmen -- Lundeen, Hamilton Fish, Senator Holt, and Stephen Day -- and maybe more, but I do not remember all the names.

Q. To your knowledge, did Viereck ever advance any funds to any congressman or senator for any purpose?

A. No. I do not think Viereck would do that. He was too precautious.

Q. Did you?

A. Absolutely not.

Q. Did Viereck ever mention William Griffin to you?

A. Was he the editor or publisher of the New York Inquirer?

Q. Yes.

A. Many several times he mentioned Griffin.

Q. In what connection?

A. Griffin several times took up advertising in his daily newspaper in which he dealt with the Flanders Hall publications to spread them. Griffin was much against England. I believe he had sued Churchill. He hated England.

Q. Do you mean Viereck inserted advertisements in the New York Inquirer?

A. Yes, but Viereck, or rather Flanders Hall under his direction, also advertised in the New York Times, New York Herald Tribune, Daily Mirror, and other papers.

Q. Did Viereck pay a larger sum for his advertisements in the New York Inquirer than in other papers?

A. Not a higher rate, but bigger advertisements. Viereck bought say half a page, and Griffin would not likely receive such a huge advertisement from a rather single person.

Q. Why did Viereck place such large advertisements with Griffin?

A. Griffin helped Viereck distribute his books. The other newspapers did not do that. Viereck and Griffin were working -- how do you say it -- hand in glove.

Q. What else besides advertise in the New York Inquirer did Viereck do for Griffin?

A. Besides these advertisements, I think it was in the New York ~~Inquir~~ Inquirer that Viereck organized a contest about foreign writing, and one of the requirements was that the contestants should have studied ~~those and~~ these books published by Flanders Hall.

Q. What was the prize?

A. Speculating, -- about $500. Maybe more.

Q. Who made these funds available?

A. Viereck. He turned over these funds to Griffin to be used in the contest.

Q. Who told you about this?

A. Viereck.

Q. In what other way, if any, did Viereck help out Griffin?

A. Griffin was Irish and had Irish friends; and so I think that many copies of the book about British Atrocities in Ireland were handed over to Griffin by Viereck, and he sold them to his Irish friends at meetings which he helped to ~~organized~~.

Q. Were these books given to Griffin by Viereck free of charge?

A. I believe so.

A 097483

H3471 - 0023

Q. And Griffin thereafter sold them?

A. Yes.

Q. What happened to the proceeds of these sales?

A. My understanding was that they were kept by Griffin.

Q. Did Viereck give Griffin other Flanders Hall books in addition to the book concerning British Atrocities in Ireland?

A. I think so.

Q. Have you ever spoken to Griffin about these things?

A. No. My information came from Viereck.

Q. Do you know Laurence Dennis?

A. Yes.

Q. When did you first meet him?

A. I met Laurence Dennis in the period 1940/41 and I think I met him, as far as I remember, in one of the South American Legations which I visited frequently - either the Argentine, Chilian or Cuban Embassy. I think the reason why Mr. Dennis was present is that he had been in the American diplomatic service and I think he served in one of those countries. We had conversations ~~in which he told me~~ about his opinion on the political state of affairs.

Q. Was he publishing his Weekly Foreign Letter at that time?

A. If he already did so at that time or later, I do not know. But later I received the "Weekly Foreign Letter" in which he wrote about domestic and international politics as well as economic affairs.

Q. Did he send you this copy free of charge or did you subscribe?

A. I do not remember.

Q. When was your next visit?

A. I do not recall definitely. I think I have seen him several times, but not often.

Q. Did he ever indicate to you that he was in need of funds?

A. If he mentioned it or if other people mentioned it to me that he needed funds, I do not ~~know~~ remember.

H3471 - 0024

H3471 - 0025

Q. But you do recall that you were advised by someone that he was in need of funds?

A. Yes, I knew that he was ~~short of funds~~ not doing too well

Q. Did you ever give him any funds?

A. No, not directly as far as I remember.

Q. Have you ever heard of his book "The Dynamics of War and Revolution"?

A. Yes, I received a copy ~~from~~ of this book from Dennis and I glanced through it. It seemed like an interesting book.

Q. Did you know that 1500 copies of this book were distributed free of charge to the colleges and universities throughout the United States?

A. I did not know that.

Q. Did you advance funds to him for that purpose?

A. No, I do not think so, because that book would not have This is the line of books that the Company sponsored.

Q. Did you ever discuss a scheme to publish European editions of Dennis' book?

A. As far as I remember, Dennis was approached ~~by someone who told him that they wanted to issue~~ with the plan that should be issued European editions of his book and it was thought that this was a practical way to give him indirect financial help and to publicize his personality.

Q. What is the source of your information?

A. Either through Dennis or another source, I had heard that Berlin had such a plan. Now, it could have been that it was mentioned in an instruction or communication.

Q. Who would know about that?

A. Dennis. Or, there were quite a number of Nazi agencies that occupied themselves with propaganda in the United States.

Q. What were those Nazi agencies?

A. The German Railway Information Service, the German-American Chamber of Commerce, Westermann Book Store, and the V.D.A. They may sometime have suggested to Berlin, -- why don't you sponsor Dennis' book.

H3471 - 0026

23

Q. We shall return to these agencies at a later time. At the moment I want to get a complete statement of the facts concerning Dennis. If I understand you correctly, you knew that there was a plan to publish European issues of Dennis' book, but you are not certain whether you heard it from Dennis, the Foreign Office, or a Nazi agency in the United States?

A. That is right. I have a definite recollection that there was a plan to bring out ~~a~~ European editions of his book, and that the plan was ~~approved~~ sponsored by Berlin. ~~That is all~~ But I do not remember all the details.

Q. Were European editions of this book ever published?

A. I don't know, for sure, but I do not think so.

Q. Did Viereck discuss Dennis with you at any time?

A. Yes, ~~many~~ several times.

Q. In what connection?

A. Berlin insisted that, America being a country of business affairs of great importance and the ir leaders ~~of business are~~ being politically influential ~~people~~, we should publish magazines which would deal with ~~these~~ international economic problems. This order was passed on as usual to Viereck ~~and then there was a plan~~ who started to organize such a magazine, either as a weekly or a fortnightly. As Dennis had had experience in this type of work because he had published the Weekly Foreign Letter, or similar publications it was considered that he should be the one who should organize or write for such a magazine.

Q. What was the period that these plans were being laid?

A. In 1941.

Q. Who in Berlin issued these instructions?

A. ~~The latter~~ normally, propagandistic orders were signed by Mr. Martin Luther, Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office, in charge of the Department of Information.

Q. Did you ever speak to Dennis about this project?

A. Yes.

A097486

Q. What was the substance of the conversation or conversations?

A. Dennis ~~said that this suggestion of Berlin's was practical.~~ ~~it was~~ opinion was, that it is very important to explain to leaders of business & finance the economical consequences of the second world war and to comment regularly international events in order to demonstrate

(Continuation of page 22)

H3471 - 0027

where the real economical interests of the United States were at stake. <quote from page 23>

H 097487

H3471 - 0028

Q. Who told Dennis about the suggestion from Berlin?

A. I suppose that ~~it was the instruction of Berlin to approach~~ Viereck directly or through his literary agency had him for, as Viereck knew Berlin's great interest ~~We tried~~ to bring out an economical weekly or magazine ~~for a long time.~~ So I had conversations with Dennis about the type of reading ~~asking who~~ was reading his foreign letter; ~~is it interesting, etc. He said business men read it.~~ The significance of such a letter is that it is not like a daily newspaper that anyone could buy or read. Such a type of publication is only available for those substantially ~~sent to people~~ who are interested in international, economic and political affairs.

Q. Was Dennis' name mentioned by you in your communications with Luther of the Foreign Office concerning the economic periodical?

A. The Embassy ~~We~~ reported several times about the Weekly Foreign Letter.

Q. What did you report?

A. That it contained interesting observations & informations, which sometimes ~~quoted arguments, particularly arguments that could~~ be used for propaganda purposes, too. To show Berlin what should be ~~is the~~ most interesting ~~thing~~ for businessmen in the United States.

Q. Was the plan for an economic publication along the lines ordered by Berlin carried out?

A. I had several conversations with Viereck about such a project & I think I ~~I gave Viereck money for the project.~~ even advanced funds to him.

Q. How much?

A. As usually, ~~a~~ lump sum, between and $10,000. Maybe $15,000.

Q. In what demominations?

A. I do not remember the particular denominations, but payments ~~All amounts. $5 bills, $10 bills, -- up to $1,000 bills.~~ ~~Never any perticuler denomination.~~

Q. Was it your understanding that Viereck would transmit all or a part of these funds to Dennis in order to bring out this new periodical?

A. Viereck was authorized by me to transmit these funds to Dennis, or any body else ~~If~~ he saw fit. In his dispatches to Germany, Viereck ~~made~~ spoke ~~making known that cooperation between~~ for this publication, very highly of Dennis and himself was being ~~beneficial~~. a very able economist & writer.

Forgot always issued in all kind of denominations between 5 dollars bills up to 1,000 dollar bills.

4 092488

H3471 - 0029

26

Q. Did Viereck transmit any funds to Dennis?

A. I believe so.

Q. How much?

A. I do not ~~remember~~ know. The ultimate costs of this magazine ~~It was very difficult to bring out the magazine because it would~~ had not been established. It would have cost a lot ~~more to bring it out~~ of money to give it a wide distribution. (difficulties with the printers' union etc.)

Q. Did Viereck tell you how much he had given to Dennis?

A. No. Viereck did not discuss details of his propagandistic activities with me & was always vague about ~~these~~ financial matters. He said everything is working out fine; it has cost money already.

Q. What did you understand this to mean?

A. My impression was that Viereck, or the literary agency ~~he had set up in New York~~ which Viereck used as an intermediary, had ~~paid~~ money to Dennis to ~~edit~~ launch this periodical. Viereck knew I had no objections against Dennis ~~had my approval for this project~~ advanced.

Q. Did Dennis ever mention to you that he had received funds from Viereck?

A. I do not think so.

Q. Was the magazine ever published?

A. No.

Q. Why not?

A. There were too many difficulties in the way.

Q. Wasn't the real reason that Dennis' "Weekly Foreign Letter" admirably suited the plans and purposes of the Foreign Office; so that a new magazine was not considered necessary?

A. ~~I do not remember.~~ No, Berlin wanted to have launched a much bigger project.

Q. Didn't you discuss this matter with Viereck?

A. ~~I do not~~ think so. Yes, we did discuss the possibility.

Q. You mentioned a short while ago that Viereck had a literary agency in New York. What was its name?

A. I ~~don't remember.~~ As I have stated already I do not remember the name, only the purpose.

Q. What was the function of the agency?

A. To win the cooperation of American authors.

Q. Whom did Viereck contact through this literary agency?

A 097489

(Insert from bottom of page 24)

F of Dennis Weekly Foreign Letter meeting Berlin requirements; ~~Had a bigger magazine should be put out.~~

-- but Berlin wanted a bigger magazine to be issued.

A097490

H3471 – 0030

H3471 - 0031

A. In addition to Laurence Dennis, I believe also Roscoe Drummond.

Q. Who was he?

A. An author on economic subjects.

Q. Did Viereck advance any funds to him?

A. I don't know.

Q. Have you ever heard of Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling of Chicago?

A. I'm not sure. She published a book "The Red Network".

Q. That's right.

A. I think she was one of the persons in touch with Viereck. He said I think that she was a very good interest in distributing books.

Q. Did she pay for the books she got from Flanders Hall?

A. I believe so.

Q. Did you ever advance any funds to her?

A. No.

Q. Did Viereck?

A. I don't know. I doubt it.

Q. Did you know Prescott Dennett?

A. Yes, unfortunately. I read in the newspapers the scandal about Dennett's speeches for senators and congressmen. Then I told Viereck that Dennett had swindled me out of money. He came to the Embassy and sold me a news clipping service. He said each clipping would cost a cent. They were useless things. He tried to sue me and I had to hire a lawyer to get rid of him. So when I read about him, I told Viereck to have nothing to do with this man because he was a crook.

Q. What had been Viereck's relationship to Dennett before that time?

A. I don't know. I was doubtful if he had something to do with him.

Q. Why, then, did you go to the trouble of telling Viereck to have nothing to do with Dennett?

H3471 - 0032

29

A. I had the feeling, -- there is a rotten egg -- and I advised Viereck to take his hands off this man.

Q. Did Viereck indicate that he had had dealings with Dennett?

A. He did not deny it. He left it open. If he had not had relations with Dennett, he would have denied it more emphatically

Q. Did you know Col. Emerson?

A. Yes, he had worked for the Embassy as a newspaper man in World War I, and he came regularly to the Embassy and received a pension, shortly before he as he worked for the Embassy before in the first world war. He was now an old man and had no means to support him. As far as I can remember he may have received money. Thomsen dealt with the pension; maybe about $500 he is yearly. every three months.

Q. Did you have anything to do with this so-called pension?

A. It was paid out of the press fund. We proposed to Berlin whether it that we should be paid in a lump sum, but to give him a final lump sum to stop these regular payments. Berlin approved.

Q. Did you know that he wrote articles for the German-American Bund paper, the "Weckruf"?

A. No, I did not. I would not approve of that.

Q. Did you know a Cleveland lawyer named Frank Birch?

A. The lawyer who got arrested?

Q. Yes. Did you authorize payment of funds to him?

A. No, but I think that We sent money to the German Consul-to General in Cleveland, Kapp, to give to Birch. when he received additional funds from the Embassy for distributing Reuters dull books he advanced money to Birch,

Q. What was Birch to do in return for the payments to him?

A. I don't know exactly but I think wanted to use Kapp had recommended that Birch be paid for to distribute Reuters dull publications. propaganda work, and I followed Kapp's recommendation.

Q. Did Kapp request funds from you for all of his propaganda activities?

A. He once had been in Washington during one of the consular meetings in and said he had no more asked that his propaganda funds, and could he have some. should be increased. I told Thomsen that Kapp was a old experienced man and that I could see no reliable career official objection to him given his request that he should have this amount from the press funds. increased.

Q. Did Kapp speak to you about Father Coughlin?

A 097492

H3471 - 0033

30

A. I don't remember. But von Dienenth did. I was very much against the Embassy having any relation with Father Coughlin. The moment the German Embassy had relations with Father Coughlin it would destroy his integrity. I believed he would be more effective to be left alone.

Q. Was Father Coughlin mentioned in any communications you received from Berlin?

A. I recall that Berlin may have asked about the importance of Father Coughlin, Did many people listen to his radio speeches, etc.

Q. What else?

A. I believe that the Pope, or someone, made some ban on Father Coughlin, and Berlin asked what would be our suggestion to lift that ban. We replied that we in the German Embassy in the United States could do nothing about that.

Q. Why were the Berlin officials interested in lifting the ban?

A. Because he was such a strong isolationist.

Q. With whom in Berlin were you in contact about this?

A. I believe Weizaecker of the Political Department of the Foreign Office.

Q. It is now 1740, so I believe we had better adjourn, so you can have your dinner.

A 097493

16 February 1946

Continuation of interrogation of Dr. von Strempel
by Captain Sam Harris.
Reporter: Miss Joan Wakefield.

Q. Can you think of any phase of Viereck's activities we have not covered?

A. No.

Q. Now, Dr. Strempel, I want to discuss with you another enterprise. What was your connection, if any, with the magazine, "Scribners Commentator"?

A. I remember that I was informed that two younger but well experienced publishers ~~two young men approached me at the Embassy~~ -- I believe around the middle of 1941 -- ~~and said they~~ wanted to organize a magazine of the type of Readers Digest ~~and they thought it should be a kind of combined pool of~~ to be managed and financed as well by German and American capital.

Q. What were the names of these men?

A. Their names seem to have slipped my memory because I spoke them only once. Perhaps you can help me?

Q. Stewart and Eggleston?

A. Yes, yes.

Q. Go on.

A. As Berlin had given on several occasions orders to bring out such a magazine, ~~I had a conversation with them.~~ either the German Consul at Chicago or at Cleveland showed themselves interested in their proposals. Their idea too was to have a mixture of political, economic, and general topics in the magazine.

Q. Were the articles in the magazine to have any particular slant?

A. They were to ~~write~~ explain that an actual military participation in the war by the United States would be detrimental to the United States, ~~as well as to Germany.~~

Q. Did they ask you for funds?

A. Yes.

A 097494

H3471 - 0034

H3471 - 0035

32

Q. Did you give any to them?

A. Yes, between 10 to 15 thousand dollars.

Q. Did you personally hand the money to them?

A. Yes.

Q. Where?

A. I think in ~~In Washington or~~ New York.

Q. In what denominations?

A. I don't recall.

Q. Did you hand the money to them on the basis of your single conversation with them? That seems a little strange, doesn't it?

A. They came to me either through Baer or Kapp, with a recommendation. Baer was German Consul general in Chicago, and Kapp, Consul in Cleveland. Before their meeting with me, Stewart and Eggleston had had conversations with Baer or Kapp. Their ~~understood that~~ negotiations had already reached an advanced stage. The main purpose of their visit ~~to me was~~ was to have contact with the Embassy to get funds to prepare a dummy of the magazine. They said that they could show the dummy to other possible promoters and get more backing.

Q. What happened after you advanced the 10 or 15 thousand dollars to them?

A. I had no further contact with them.

Q. Didn't you undertake to see that the money had been spent for the purposes represented to you?

A. No. I did not see Stewart or Eggleston after this ~~one~~ meeting. because apparently their efforts were not successful.

Q. Well, did Kapp or Baer maintain contact with them?

A. ~~I don't know.~~ I assume so.

Q. Don't you think that you were a little lax in the way you handled your government's funds? According to your story, you never seemed to have paid much attention to what happened to the money you disseminated for propaganda.

A. ~~I didn't favor my government's propaganda efforts.~~ (see next page)

Q. Did you know that in the Scribners Commentator which Stewart and Eggleston published with the funds you supplied, they re-published cartoons and articles from the German-American Bund's newspaper -- "Weckruf"?

(Insert at bottom of page 29)

33

[The Foreign Office knew that we were not able to bother about the details of the execution of the different projects and that we could not controll if one or the other project caused financial losses. therefore the overwhelming amount was spent by the Library of Information for their periodical „facts in review".]

A097496

H3471 - 0036

H3471 - 0037

34

A. No. I would have opposed that. I thought the political line of the Weckruf was detrimental to German-American relations [next page]

Q. What steps, if any, were taken by the German government to spread propaganda on the West coast of the United States?

A. I had nothing to do with that part of the USA. ~~I don't remember anything in particular. I vaguely recall that a~~ Mr. Hubner was in charge for propaganda activities ~~had been in the office~~ of the Consul General in San Francisco, ~~and he was interested in detective story propaganda.~~

Q. Is that the same Hubner that subsequently went to Washington?

A. Yes. He was appointed as Propaganda Attache at the German Embassy in Washington by Ribbentrop. He arrived in Washington at the end of 1939 to relieve me ~~and started to work. I was quite happy about it because I was too busy on reports to concentrate on propaganda.~~ so that I would concentrate on my main duties. He stayed only a short time ~~and~~ as ~~then~~ the State Department asked his ~~to~~ leaving the United States. [next page.

Q. As I understand it, Hubner was Ribbentrop's propaganda representative, whereas Gienanth represented the Propaganda Ministry.

A. Yes.

Q. What did you mean by "detective story propaganda"?

A. He said: Don't you think it is a good idea to be in touch through many agents with the isolationists, fascists or nazi groups in USA and to support them? I tried to bring the conversation on a higher level, because I thought that was foolish.

Q. Did he mention the names of any agents who were in his pay?

A. No.

Q. Were any efforts made by the German Government or any of its representatives to produce any pro-Nazi films in Hollywood?

A. The embassy was approached by a producer ~~Once a fellow came to the Embassy~~; he had TB, that was the reason why he started to stay ~~he lived~~ in California. He was interested in bringing out a film, ~~not one of the normal war films, but a film that~~ to show~~s~~ the real horrors of war. ~~He thought we should be~~

[page 31] Pas I do not remember his name I want to describe him as well as I can

A097497

(Insert at top and at middle of page 30)

35

<May I point out that the above-mentioned funds were not to be spend for Scherers Commentator but for a new magazine. As far as I remember the two mentioned publishers had ~~formed~~ lost their position with which they may have laid with that or another magazine, so that therefore they looked for a new opportunity.>

F It was not a great loss, because his intellectual capacities & his experience abroad would not have been sufficient for a job of this kind.
His ideas about propaganda would have been useful only for colourfull detective stories or movies.

A097498

H3471-0038

H3471 - 0039

36

~~interested because it would show it was more practical for America to stay out of war.~~ <He was a close friend of a German film actress, who presented him to the Embassy.> ~~She had left Germany and I think she paid me a visit that was a pretext to get into touch with me.~~

Q. What was this man's name?

A. I don't remember, as I mentioned already

Q. Was this man of German extraction?

A. no I do not think so.

Q. Did you advance any funds to him?

A. No. I believe he was a member of the Knickerbocker Club in New York. his project ~~seemed not~~ did not appear well founded.

Q. Did he do any radio work?

A. No.

Q. Do you know of any other attempts to produce a pro-Nazi film?

A. No.

Q. Do you know of any plans to distribute pro-Nazi films?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever heard of a man named Ferenz in Los Angeles.

A. No.

Q. Did you know a man named Winrod?

A. I did not know him. I was asked this before by Mr. Rhetts. ~~I think~~ I heard about him ~~his name~~; he was a preacher ~~priest~~, if I remember well.

Q. In what connection did you hear about him?

A. That he wanted to organize speakers.

Q. Did you hear anything further?

A. No.

Q. Did you participate in any way in Winrod's plans to organize speakers.

A. No.

Q. Did you advance any funds to him?

A. ~~No.~~ Ausmally not.

A 097400

H3471 - 0040

37

Q. To your knowledge, did anyone connected with the German Government advance any funds to him?

A. No. ~~There was a representative of his, I think I have met him in New York.~~ If so, it might have been through the Consulate General at San Francisco, but

Q. ~~What was his name?~~

A. I don't remember to have heard about it. ~~Therefore I do not~~

Q. ~~Did he request any funds from you?~~

A. ~~No.~~

Q. Did you or any representative of the German Government give money to any of Winrod's representatives?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. Have you ever heard of Edmondson?

A. I was asked this before also, but I do not think I ~~remember~~ met him. The Edmondson letter, I think I have seen that. If it was anti-Semitic I am sure Edmondson did not receive funds from me, because I had a very clear line against ~~that~~ propaganda for Wilhelmstrasse, because I did not fit in the line of the Embassy propaganda.

Q. Have you ever heard of Boake Carter?

A. Yes, he was a radio broadcaster, wasn't he?

Q. What contact, if any, did you have with him?

A. Personally, I had none.

Q. Did any member of the German Government, to your knowledge, have contact with Carter?

A. Borchers, Consul General in New York, or his younger assistant, Hirschfeld, may have told me that they had ~~good~~ relations with Carter.

Q. What does that mean?

A. Possibly that Carter was ~~cooperating~~ interested to receive information about German policies.

Q. We are not interested in speculation here. Precisely what did Borchers or Hirschfeld say to you?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Did you advance any funds to Carter?

A. No.

Q. Did you give any funds to Borchers or Hirschfeld to give to Carter?

A. No.

H3471 - 0041

38

Q. Did Borchers or Hirschfeld give any money to Carter?

A. They would not ~~speak to~~ discuss with me me ~~about~~ the detailed use of their funds.

Q. Have you ever heard of George Deatherage?

A. Yes -- he was the head of the Knights of the White Camelia, I am told. But I never met Deatherage and he got no funds from me, directly or indirectly.

Q. To your knowledge, did Deatherage receive money or support from any other representative of the German Government?

A. I don't know. I wouldn't be surprised if Gienanth ~~gave~~ had supported him, with money. too, because he may have known him. ~~Gienanth was interested in such people as Deatherage.~~

Q. But you don't know for sure?

A. No.

Q. How much money did Gienanth have at his disposal?

A. He posed as if he had none, but I had the impression that he must have had some funds. Sometimes I imagined that he would draw out of the press fund, on Thomsen's approval. He would come to Thomsen and ask for money. He would probably say, I can not convince Strempel he is against it; ~~please don't tell him~~. If he could convince Thomsen ~~felt under pressure~~, he might have given some times money to Gienanth, but only insignificant amounts.

Q. Did you support the Wimona Press in any way?

A. Yes.

Q. How?

A. When I took over the Press Department, I found a note in the files that every three months, I think it was, transfer~~s~~ of a small ~~funds were~~ amount was to be made to the Winona Press in Chicago, ~~I did not issue any further payments, but payments were made by~~ through the Consulate General in Chicago.

Q. What was published by the Winona Press?

A. A small weekly or daily, in both English and German. ~~There was a small amount of~~ I do not remember details because I was not personally interested in the paper.

Q. Did you have any contact with William Dudley Pelley?

A. No. He was head of the Silver Shirts and very anti-Semitic. I was opposed ~~to all~~ against all contacts with that type of propagandists. ~~I thought it was foolish.~~

A097501

H3471 - 0042

3.9

Q. Did he ever visit the Embassy?

A. I heard that he had been in the Embassy once I think in 1939 or 1940. I suggested to Thomsen that it was unwise to receive Pelley in the Embassy.

Q. Whom did he visit?

A. Probably Gienanth.

Q. Did Gienanth give any money to Pelley?

A. Maybe. I don't know. His case is like Deatherage. I wouldn't be surprised.

Q. Let me revert, for a moment, to Viereck's activity. What type of an audience did Viereck intend to reach with his publications?

A. ~~All types of people.~~ especially in explicit propaganda for very closely interested in foreign policy.

Q. Including members of the armed forces of the United States?

A. No. We were against distributing propaganda to the Army or Navy. For example, Gen. von Boetticher of the Embassy had received small booklets from Germany. He was ~~supposed~~ ordered to distribute them among ~~the~~ American officers. He received them from Berlin. He showed me the booklets, and said, well I have this order now to distribute this booklet, what do you think? I ~~said, no, do~~ suggested not to distribute them. The Embassy receives so many foolish orders from Berlin; ~~it is easy to avoid them. Send a cable to Berlin and say you will distribute them - then later on destroy them.~~ but there are ways to turn them down.

Q. What did von Boetticher do?

A. The booklets were ~~never distributed~~. destroyed.

Q. Do you recall any further instances in which German authorities in Berlin had instructed anyone in the Embassy to distribute materials to the armed forces of the United States?

A. No.

Q. Did Viereck ever show you a copy of the V-card?

A. Yes, I think he did.

Q. What was the purpose of the card?

A 097502

Personally I thought that such cheap types of propaganda would not have been effective. - 35 - 40

A. I remember it was a postcard. Viereck said it would be used to convince people not to send forces abroad.

Q. Did you approve the distribution of the card?

A. It was not up to me to decide in that. ~~I opposed it. I regarded such propaganda as harmful.~~

Q. But you knew that Viereck nevertheless authorized its distribution, didn't you?

A. No, I did not.

Q. Did you or anyone connected with the German Government support James Smythe in any way?

A. I have been asked about him by Mr. Rhetts. This morning I had a walk with Mr. Schmitz, former manager of the Library of Information, and he said that Smythe once came into his office to collect money, and he threw him out. Smythe was head of the Protestant War Veterans, I understand. Schmitz believed that Borchers gave some money to Smythe. Schmitz would know more about this.

Q. Did you know Paul Scheffer?

A. Very well. He was ousted by Goebbels as editor in chief of the Berliner Tageblatt while I was in Berlin and we were afraid in the Press Department of the Foreign Office, especially Minister Aschmann, that he probably would run into trouble, maybe even be put into a concentration camp; and so we tried to find a position for him. We managed that he was sent as foreign correspondent to the United States. In order to organize a living for him he worked for the DAZ, the Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, whose editor in chief was Mr. Silex, who was thoroughly anti-Nazi. When "Das Reich" was founded and they found out that the reports of Scheffer in the DAZ were especially of a high intellectual and political level, they forced him to write for them.

Q. What was the form of pressure that was used on him?

A. They said they would stop his work for the DAZ and then he would have no more ~~money~~ income.

A 097503

H3471 - 0043

H3471 - 0044

41

Q. What type of article did he write for Das Reich?

A. Foreign policy topics.

Q. Pro-Nazi?

A. No. He was never a Nazi.

Q. Did the Nazi Government sponsor any radio programs in, or directed to, the United States?

A. Yes.

Q. What was the nature of these programs?

A. They were of two types. One was to use simple slogans to impress the wide masses of American radio listeners, and the other type was to broadcast political information for American ~~of a~~ news ~~service.~~ agencies, newspapers and so on.

Q. Were these programs transmitted by short wave from Germany?

A. Yes.

Q. Did the German government own or lease any stations in the United States? not to my knowledge.

A. No. The Embassy ~~I~~ received once an order to organize a broadcasting station in the United States. ~~I~~ turned it down because ~~I~~ we thought it was just throwing away money and would be detrimental.

Q. Were you priveleged to disobey orders from Berlin in this manner?

A. ~~I merely disregarded it.~~ No, but the arguments of ours reports apparently convinced the Foreign Office.

Q. It seems rather strange that you should not have heeded such an important order. Did you or any representative of the German Government purchase any radio programs?

A. No, to my knowledge.

Q. This also seems strange, since radio is such an effective medium of propaganda.

A. There were those short wave broadcasts.

Q. What was the Embassy's function with respect to those broadcasts?

A. On these short wave broadcasts, it was von Gienanth's function to report to the Foreign Office, who would ~~then~~ send ~~it~~ them to the Propaganda Ministry. The radio propaganda was cherished by both Goebbels and Ribbentrop, so both said they should have a hand in

H3471 - 0045

A097505

radio propaganda. Ribbentrop organized a radio propaganda department, headed by Minister Ruehle. So it was a constant fight between Goebbels and Ribbentrop who should handle radio propaganda. Gienanth, since 1940, received a salary from the Foreign Office, but he was not a permanent official of the Foreign Office, and so he retained his capacity as representative of the Propaganda Ministry. He drafted his reports for the Berlin Foreign Office; but I think his reports, while forwarded to the Foreign Office, carried a notation to transmit them to the Propaganda Ministry.

Q. What was the nature of Gienanth's reports?

A. ~~Mainly~~ Political technical supervision of the radio-propaganda. ~~They said you should draw attention more to those and those political facts.~~

Q. Did he report upon certain themes which might effectively be played upon?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recall the particular themes?

A. I do not remember. Facts which would help keep the United States out of the war.

Q. Were his recommendations followed?

A. Partly.

Q. Did Gienanth report to Germany upon the size of the American audience?

A. Yes - grossly exaggerated. He said 5 million people were listening. I told him I wondered whether it would be much more than 10% of that figure.

Q. Did you see any of Gienanth's reports?

A. Yes. Several times, the reports were not clear enough, or were not written in the right style; then Thomsen gave them to me. I redrafted them. ~~That was one of the reasons I did not like to be Gienanth's immediate superior.~~

Q. Did Gienanth mention the names of any persons he was supporting in these reports?

A. No. ~~If he had mentioned them, the telegrams would not be shown to me.~~ I would not know, because these reports would not be [illegible] to my knowledge.

H3471 - 0046

Q. Were any branches established outside of Berlin for short wave radio broadcasting to the United States?

A. Yes, in Shanghai.

Q. What was the reason for that?

A. ~~Concerning the American sector~~ German broadcasts ~~could~~ not ~~be.~~ ~~well heard in~~ the Pacific coast for technical reasons, so ~~we thought we should~~ establish a powerful radio station on the other side of the Pacific. ~~so that German news could be heard.~~ Several members of the Library of Information, who had ~~in the work~~ experience in the Library, left America and were supposed to go to Shanghai.

Q. What was their function to be?

A. To make a radio program which appealed to American listeners.

Q. Was the Shanghai station openly known as a German station?

A. Yes, I think so.

Q. Did it, in fact, broadcast German news and other programs to the United States?

A. I think so. I personally never heard it.

Q. Did Gienanth report on the effectiveness of these broadcasts?

A. I think so.

Q. Did you read any of the reports submitted about Shanghai?

A. No.

Q. To your knowledge, did the Reich Railways Office, Reichsbahnzentrale, in New York, receive any funds from the Propaganda Ministry?

A. Yes, I think it did.

Q. Who managed the Reichsbahnzentrale?

A. Mr. Ernst Schmitz.

Q. I take it that this is a different Schmitz from the one in the German Library of Information?

A. Yes.

A 097506

H3471 - 0047

Q. Did you learn that funds were given the Reichsbahnzentrale by the Propaganda Ministry while you were in Washington or after your return to Germany?

A. After my return.

Q. How much did Schmitz receive from the Propaganda Ministry?

A. I do not know, but they were very large funds.

Q. What was the nature of Schmitz's activity?

A. He published more or less regularly ~~small~~ weekly letters ~~or magazines~~ in which he appealed to those Americans whom he knew had travelled in Europe and had special interest in European affairs.

Q. What did Schmitz seek to accomplish by these publications?

A. To show that Germany ~~would win~~ could not lose the war, and thereby indicate that it would be useless for the United States to enter the war.

Q. Where did the Reichsbahnzentrale, under Schmitz, receive the materials which were used in its propaganda literature?

A. From the German short wave, direct communications from the Propaganda Ministry and the Transocean News Service. It even picked up some material from the American press.

Q. How large a group of persons did Schmitz reach with his publications?

A. I don't know. Quite large, I assume.

Q. Have you ever heard of Dr. Degner?

A. Yes.

Q. In what connection?

A. He was secretary general of the German-American Chamber of Commerce in New York.

Q. Did he issue any publications?

A. Yes, he issued a periodical.

Q. What was its nature and to whom did he distribute it?

A. It was a weekly which related to the economical strength of Germany. It was distributed to members of the Chamber of Commerce and those influential business men who he thought would like to read his stuff.

A 097507

H3471 - 0048

45

Q. How large was the circulation?

A. Not very big. It was supposed to have a select audience. It was supposed to be read by influential Americans interested in international economic affairs. Several Congressmen used the articles of this periodical for their speeches, and they were distributed to their constituency.

Q. Did ~~Schmitz~~ Degner receive funds from the German Government?

A. From the Propaganda Ministry, I believe.

Q. Did you ever transmit funds to Degner?

A. No.

Q. How did you know that he received funds from the Propaganda Ministry?

A. From conversations with my colleagues.

Q. Did the Consul General in New York exercise any control over Degner?

A. I think so. The Nazi system was for the Consul General to have a kind of control over such enterprises.

Q. Did the Ministry of Propaganda direct the line ~~the~~ Degner's magazine was to take?

A. I believe so. ~~by~~ a mutual steering comittee of ~~When they had a meeting between officials of~~ the Propaganda Ministry and the Economic Ministry in Berlin, ~~they said this~~ and this line should be taken.

Q. Have you ever heard of an organization called the Westermann Book Store in New York?

A. Yes.

Q. In what connection?

A. That you could buy there books about Germany, about economic, financial and political problems, and that those books would give the background for better understanding of German news.

For instance, one important topic was the blockade, and they ~~said~~ explained why would remain the blockade ~~will be~~ ineffective because Germany produced so many new synthetics, ~~now, for instance copper.~~

A 097508

H3471 - 0049

46

Q. Who managed the Westermann Book Company?

A. Eisele.

Q. Did the Westerman Book Store receive any funds from the German Government?

A. Yes, I think so.

Q. Did you transmit any funds to the Westerman Book Store?

A. No.

Q. Who did?

A. They came directly from the Propaganda Ministry or maybe from the Carl Schurz Vereinigung in Berlin.

Q. Did the Consul in New York supply any funds to the Westerman Book Store?

A. I don't know. He may have been an agent for the transmission of funds from the Propaganda Ministry or Carl Schurz.

Q. What do you know about Orgell?

A. He was representative of the VDA (Verein fur das Deutschtum im Ausland) in New York. He was steering man for mass distribution of small pamphlets that were printed in Germany or at least in Europe and then sent over and distributed in America.

Q. Who published these leaflets?

A. VDA.

Q. Did the Fichtebund also publish some of these leaflets and pamphlets?

A. Yes, some.

Q. Did he likewise represent Flanders Hall, and aid in the distribution of their materials?

A. [redacted] no

Q. Did Orgell receive any funds from the German Government?

A. Yes.

Q. How do you know?

A. This was one of the points I learned when I returned to Germany.

Q. Do you know who financed him?

A. Finally the Propaganda Ministry. How many other organisations came between him and the Propaganda Ministry, I do not know.

A 197509

H3471 - 0050

Q. Do you know of the "Organization Hoffman"?

A. Yes.

Q. What was the nature of that organization?

A. They published periodicals called "Foreign Letter" or something, which was specially to be distributed in English speaking countries.

Q. Who was publisher?

A. Mr. Hoffman and he lived near Munich at Starnberger See and I think he was close to the SS.

Q. Was he financed by the SS or the Propaganda Ministry?

A. By both.

Q. Did Orgell distribute any of Hoffman's materials?

A. I do not know.

Q. Who did distribute them in the United States?

A. I think they had a list and sent the material directly.

Q. Did you know of this while in the United States or did you learn of it after your return to Berlin?

A. In the United States. I learned it from Gienanth, at the Embassy, that this weekly of Hoffman was backed by the SS.

Q. Did any of the German agencies or German personnel indulge in whispering campaigns?

A. Yes.

Q. Who?

A. Remnants of the Foreign Section of the Nazi Party in the United States, under the control of Draeger.

Q. Was that the Draeger who was vice-Consul in New York?

A. Consul, under Borchers.

Q Who financed these whispering campaigns?

A. They were financed by members of the Party.

Q. The Nazi Party in the United States?

A. Yes.

Q. What was the nature of these whispering campaigns?

A. Germany would win the war.

Q. What else?

A. Contradicting atrocity propaganda against Germany.

H3471 - 0051

48

Q. What else?

A. Anti-semitic propaganda.

Q. How did you learn about these whispering campaigns?

A. Through visits in New York, I heard about this nonsense.

Q. From whom?

A. From the ~~Zapp, and other~~ German newspaper men.

Q. In what period were these whispering campaigns carried out?

A. 1940, 1941.

Q. What do you knew about Mr. Westrick?

A. I knew him personally when he came to the United States.

Q. In what capacity?

A. As special envoy of Ribbentrop.

Q. What was his mission?

A. In order to use his personal relations with influential American business men that they should engage in propaganda to keep America out of the war and that if Hitler would win the war in Europe it would be of great benefit for American economics in general and to their business in particular.

Q. How do you know this?

A. Out of conversations with him in the Embassy.

Q. Did he indicate any particular persons he proposed to contact?

A. He indicated several personalities.

Q. Do you recall any names?

A. An oil man. I cannot remember the name of this man, but I have the recollection that he was forced to resign from the Board of Directors because of his relations with Westrick as exposed by Winchell and other American newspapers.

Q. Did Westrick comment upon this particular event?

A. Several times he came to Washington and reported to Thomsen about his saddening experiences.

Q. Did he mention any other persons?

A. I can't recall their names at the moment.

A097511

H3471 - 0052

Q. What "personal relations" did he have in the United States?

A. He was ~~representative~~ legal adviser in Germany of ~~Lotus,~~ General Motors, of Coca-Cola, Woolworths, Lodak and other big American commerical enterprises. ~~He was a lawyer for these companies and they had frozen credits in Germany and he looked after them. He proposed to exploit his contacts.~~

Q. Did Westrick have any funds at his disposal for this particular mission?

A. He said he could use funds in a double way. He had a dollar fund, and he said that he could ~~indirectly~~ furthermore help prominent businessmen through unfreezing their blocked credits in Germany. ~~He said that through hisinfluence he could arrange for the purchase of goods in Germany with the frozen credits if the influential business man was cooperative. That was the plan, as explained to me by Westrick.~~

Q. Who authorized him to engage in this type of activity?

A. He was a special envoy of Ribbentrop.

Q. Also of Goebbels?

A. No.

Q. Did he meet with any success?

A. It is difficult to say.

Q. It is past your dinner time and I believe we had better stop. I want the record to show that you have been very cooperative in answering my questions. Thank you.

I have read the foregoing interrogations pages 1 through 44; I have made such corrections as I found necessary; I have initialed each page and I certify that all the statements in these interrogations are correct to my best knowledge and belief.

Gerhard Ottenpfeil
Febr. 18th 1946.

Witnessed this 18th day of February 1946 at Oberursel, Germany
E. Joan Wakefield

Sgt. K. Beauchamp
R. Ittenbacher Capt. Int.

A097512

H3471-0052A

3800-PS

USA-880

H-3471

EXHIBIT U.S.A. 880 (3800-PS)

Filed 28 May 1946
William G. Leitzer
1st Lt. FA.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIALS · NÜRNBERG ·

EXHIBIT U.S.A.

880

(3800-PS)

A 097463

44

H3471 - 0053

H3471-0054

44 Pages